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BOLTON-UPON-DEARNE
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORT

ON THE

Health of the District

During the year ending December 31st, 1925.



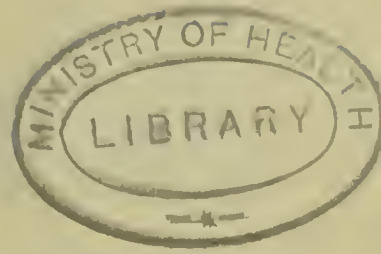
BY J. K. W. MORRIS,

Medical Officer of Health, Medical Officer of Maternity and Child Welfare

TOGETHER WITH THE

REPORTS OF THE SANITARY
INSPECTOR & HEALTH VISITOR

"Times" Printing Co., Ltd., Mexborough.



Bolton-upon-Dearne Urban District.

Report on the Health of the District during the year 1925.

Goldthorpe,

May 1st, 1926.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Urban District Council.*

Gentlemen,

I beg to present my report on the Health of the District during the year 1925, this being my fifth annual report.

In response to Circular 648 of the Ministry of Health, dated December 10th, 1925, some notes are added on the statistics, etc., of the past five years.

This year, for the first time, a standardizing factor for the district death-rate is given by the Registrar General; thus enabling the local death rate to be compared with the England and Wales rate and with the rates of other districts using their correcting factors. The comparison, however, is only sound if rates are based on correct estimates of population. The Registrar General's estimate again appears low—14,370 at mid-year 1925, whereas I estimate that the population would be 14,800. Thus I regard the death rate worked on the estimate as slightly higher than the true rate.

The provision of working class dwellings by the Council has proceeded satisfactorily during the year, but families urgently in need of houses are still very numerous.

The water supply to a considerable part of Goldthorpe has been a source of anxiety and inconvenience throughout the year. In consequence the completion of the scheme for eliminating the privies has been held up.

The annual reports of the Sanitary Inspector and Health Visitors are appended; I have to thank both officials for loyal assistance during the year.

I beg to acknowledge the courtesy of the members of the Council and the assistance always readily afforded by the Clerk and the Surveyor.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours respectfully,

J. K. W. MORRIS, M.B., Ch.B.

Medical Officer of Health.

Report of the Medical Officer of Health, 1925.

SECTION A.

1.—General Statistics.

Area of District in Acres	2,352
Population, June, 1921 (Census)	11,957
Mid-year, 1925 (Reg. Gen.)	14,370
do. Own Estimate	14,800
No. of Families or separate occupiers (Census, 1921) ..	2,398
No. of inhabited houses (Census, 1921)	2,328
Mid-year, 1925	3,010
Rateable Value	£54,861 9s. 3d.
Sum represented by Id. rate	G.D. Rate .. £215 18s. 0d.
Rainfall for year	24.61ins.
Average, 1921-1925	23.85ins.
Zymotic rate, 1925	1.04
1921-1925	1.68

2.—General Character and Social Conditions of District.

The Parish of Bolton upon Dearne in the Doncaster Rural District was constituted an Urban District in 1899.

The Census population in 1901 was 3,828, in 1911, 8,675 ; and in 1921, 11,957 ; the present population contains a large immigrant element from various counties.

Some 15 or 16 arable farms existed at the formation of the district and apart from these employment was mainly in the coal mines of adjoining districts.

The Census of 1921 showed 2,798 out of 3,967 employed males as being engaged in coal mining. Only two small pits, however, are situated within the area and the bulk of the population is still employed in neighbouring districts.

Employment during the past five years (except at the two small pits just mentioned) has been regular and earnings comparatively good.

Apart from the mining population the only considerable groups of male workers shown in the Census were :—

Builders, bricklayers, etc.	213
Transport workers	131
Stationary Engine Drivers, etc.	126
Commercial and Financial	125

Many of these workers are engaged in connection with the mines.

Only 404 females were shown as in employment, the principal occupations being :-—

Domestic Servants	..	..	..	139
Commercial and Financial	..	..	..	78
Professional	..	..	..	48

The Census showed the district to have the fourth largest percentage of mining population of districts in the South Yorkshire coalfield.

The dwellings of the district are almost exclusively of working class type. Excepting a few very old cottages in the Bolton Village, the houses are of through-type, have separate sanitary conveniences, byelaw streets and back-space usually in excess of bye-law requirements. Very few of the older houses, however, have baths or suitably placed food-stores.

In 1909 the Council erected 48 semi-detached dwellings at Highgate, and from 1918 to 1925 erected and had occupied 741 further dwellings. A Colliery Company erected 118 modern cottages under Government Subsidy.

The Council-owned houses now represent over 25 per cent. of the total number of houses in the district.

The 1921 Census showed 7.7 per cent of the population as living under overcrowded conditions, an average size of family of 4.97 persons and an average number of persons per house of 5.13. The corresponding figures for the West Riding of Yorkshire were 11.5 per cent., 4.16 and 4.45.

3.—Physical Features of District.

The district has an area of 2,352 acres and lies on the north bank of the River Dearne, the land about which is 50 ft. above sea level and is liable to flooding.

The dwellings are built on two ridges about a mile apart running east and west across the area. The northerly ridge is 150 to 200 feet above sea level and the southerly 100 to 150 feet, whilst the valley between falls to a level of 75 feet.

Goldthorpe and Highgate are situated on the northerly ridge and have a population of about 10,000; Bolton with a population of about 5,000 occupies the southerly ridge.

At Goldthorpe and Highgate the superficial stratum is mainly clay; at Bolton the Chevet sandstone outcrops and the superficial stratum generally is sand and gravel.

4.—Extracts from Vital Statistics.

Births.

	Male.	Female	Total.	
Legitimate	213	205	418	Birth Rate, 29.5 per 1,000 (Reg. General).
Illegitimate	5	2	7	
Totals	218	207	425	

The Birth Rate for England and Wales for 1925 was 18.3 per 1,000.

The average Birth Rate for the District during the five years 1921-1925 was 32.3 per 1,000. The number of illegitimate births averaged 16.8 per year.

Deaths.

During 1925 the number of deaths of residents was :—

Male 75	Female 82	Total 157
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These deaths give a recorded death rate of 10.9 per 1,000 persons on the Registrar General's estimate.

Applying the standardizing factor (1.172) supplied by the Registrar General, a corrected death rate of 12.8 per 1,000 is shown, against the England and Wales rate of 12.2.

Deaths during the five years 1921-1925 have averaged 159.8 per year and the recorded death rate worked on Registrar General's population estimates is 12.1; this rate standardized is 14.2 against an England and Wales rate of 12.2

Analysing the 799 deaths which occurred during the **five** years, the following causes are seen to be outstanding :—

Bronchitis	37	
Pneumonia	147	
Other respiratory diseases	6	
	190	
Congenital Debility and Malformation, premature birth	85	
Tuberculosis, Lungs	51	
Other forms	21	
	72	
Violent Deaths, Suicide	7	
Other	46	
	53	
Heart Disease	46	
Enteric Fever	45	
Cerebral Haemorrhage	40	
Cancer	36	

Deaths in Child Birth.

No. of women dying in, or in consequence of Child Birth :—

	1925	1921-1925.
From Sepsis	1	5
From other causes ..	1	3
Totals	2	8

Births totalled 2131 during the 5 years, 1921-1925. Fatal consequences to the mother, therefore, represented 3.75 per 1,000 live births. The England and Wales figure for 1923, 1924 and 1925 being 3.93.

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age.

	1925	1921-1925.
Legitimate ..	41	197
Illegitimate ..	3	15
Totals ..	44	212 (Av. 42.4 per yr.)

The rate of Infantile Mortality per 1,000 births was 103.5 in 1925. The rate for the five years 1921-1925, was 99.4, against 105.4 for the previous 5 years. The England and Wales rate 1921-1925 averaged 76 per 1,000.

The mortality amongst illegitimate infants per 1,000 births was 428.5 in 1925, and 178.5 during the five years.

An analysis of the infant deaths during the year is given in a table on page 7.

Analysing the infant deaths during the five years (1921-1925) it is seen that 43 per cent. were due to ante-natal causes (premature birth, congenital debility, congenital malformation); 29 per cent. to Pneumonia and Bronchitis; and 10 per cent. to Diarrhoea and gastro-enteritis.

Of the total deaths over 25 per cent. occurred in the first week of life; almost entirely from ante-natal causes.

Deaths—Measles, Whooping Cough and Diarrhoea

	1925	1921-1925.
Deaths from Measles	3	15
Deaths from Whooping Cough ..	8	14
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	3	27

The largest number of deaths from the last named disease occurred in 1921, when 11 deaths were recorded. Probably some of these deaths were really due to enteric fever which was epidemic during the latter half of that year.

5.—Notifiable Diseases.

A table is given on Page 8 showing an analysis of notifications and deaths from infectious diseases during the year.

Scarlet Fever.

The cases of scarlet fever notified during the year totalled 59 and of these 56 were removed to Isolation Hospital. One death occurred during the year from this disease.

The average number of notifications of the disease during the five years 1921-1925 is 64.2, giving a case rate of 4.86 per 1,000 of the population.

Though this figure is influenced to some extent by low estimates of population and by the high proportion of children, it is still very high in comparison with the general rate throughout the country.

During 1925 six cases were regarded as "Return Cases," *i.e.*, they occurred in the same house within three weeks of the return of a patient from Hospital; two further cases appeared to be associated with returned patients in other houses.

Generally the disease has been of a comparatively mild type; four deaths occurred during the five years.

There have been no epidemics associated with schools; when cases have been numerous in particular parts of the district, infection appeared to pass from child to child in or about the houses.

Diphtheria.

Eleven cases of Diphtheria were notified during the year; this equals the average notification during the five years 1921 to 1925.

No deaths occurred during the year; there were six deaths during the five years.

The case rate for the five years is .83 per 1,000 of the population—this is to be regarded as satisfactory.

Enteric Fever.

Four cases were notified during the year; 2 of typhoid and 2 of para-typhoid. One patient contracted the disease from his mother, the nature of whose illness was not recognised until the son developed the disease. The source of the illness of the other three patients was not traced.

During the five years 1921 to 1925, cases of enteric fever occurred as follows :—

	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	Total
Bolton	273	7	2	1	2	285
Highgate	36	7	—	—	—	43
Goldthorpe	31	47	16	—	2	96
	340	61	18	1	4	424

The review of the five years brings us back to the disastrous epidemic of 1921, which was the subject of enquiry and special report by the Ministry of Health.

A general epidemic affecting various districts in the area of the Dearne Valley Water Board commenced in July, 1921, and was attributed by the Ministry to contamination of the public water supply.

In October, 1921, a more serious outbreak in the Bolton village was superimposed on the general epidemic; this epidemic was attributed to contamination of the "Town Pump" on which many families relied owing to defective service from the public supply.

As will be seen from the table above, 340 cases occurred during 1921; and before the disease had ceased to be epidemic in the district, 45 deaths occurred and the district was involved in a cost exceeding £8,000.

It will be noted from the statement above that the disease persisted in Goldthorpe after the epidemic had ceased in other parts of the district.

Had the services of the extra nurses engaged on enquiry work been retained so as to enable systematic enquiries to be extended to Goldthorpe, probably the epidemic might have had an earlier termination here also.

Small Pox.

No case of this disease occurred in the district during 1925, and only one case occurred during the five years 1921 to 1925. This case occurred in January, 1924, having been infected whilst on a visit to Gloucestershire at Xmas, 1923.

Tuberculosis.

A table showing the notifications and deaths from tuberculosis appears on opposite page.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.—Table 1.

Cause of Death.	AGE GROUPS.											Total Deaths
	WEEKS.				MONTHS.							
	under 1	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	under 1	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 6	6 to 9	9 to 12		
Pneumonia & Bronchitis ..	..	..	..	..	..	3	1	4	4	3	15
Whooping Cough.. ..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	2	1	..	5
Premature Birth, Congenital Debility and Malformation ..	13	..	..	..	13	2	..	..	..	..	15
Convulsions .. ..	..	..	1	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	2
Diarrhoea & Enteritis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
Acute Gastritis .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1
Atelectasis	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
Cerebral Haemorrhage ..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
Rickets .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
Accident .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
TOTALS	15	..	1	..	16	7	3	7	5	5	43	

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.—Table 2.

DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED.																	DEATHS.																			
	AGE GROUPS.																	TOTAL	Cases admitted to Hospital.	AGE GROUPS.																	TOTAL
	Udr 1 yr	1-2 yrs	2-3 yrs	3-4 yrs	4-5 yrs	5-10 yrs	10-15 yrs	15-20 yrs	20-35 yrs	35-45 yrs	45-65 yrs	Over 65 yrs	Udr 1 yr	1-2 yrs	2-3 yrs	3-4 yrs	4-5 yrs			5-10 yrs	10-15 yrs	15-20 yrs	20-35 yrs	35-45 yrs	45-65 yrs	Over 65 yrs											
Small Pox	0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria	1	5	4	..	1	..	..	..	..	11	10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever	1	7	10	23	9	3	5	..	1	..	59	57	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteric Fever	1	1	..	1	1	..	..	4	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pneumonia	..	3	1	1	2	2	..	..	3	..	2	..	14	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	..	1	..	..	..	2	1	1
Erysipelas	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	2	4	1	11	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Encephalitis	0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Lethargica	0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

Ophthalmia Neonatorum

Nil.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES—Table 3.
TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Groups.	Cases Notified.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmny		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmny	
	Male.	F'male	Male.	F'male	Male.	F'male	Male.	F'male
Years.								
0—1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1—5	..	1	3	5	..	1	1	4
5—10	12	10	5	16	..	..	..	..
10—15	4	7	3	10	..	..	..	1
15—20	7	6	..	..	..	1	..	..
20—25	4	5	..	..	1	1	..	..
25—35	14	4	1	..	1	2	..	..
35—45	2	4	..	..	2	3	1	..
45—55	5	2	..	..	..	..	..	..
55—65	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
over 65	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	50	40	12	31	4	8	2	5
	90		33		12		7	
Totals	133				19			

Deaths of Non-notified cases to total deaths:—7 to 19.

(Records from 1917 only available).

2 Cases first notified on Form "C"

Notifications and deaths during the five years 1921 to 1925 were as follows (deaths being shown in brackets):—

	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	Total.
Pulmonary	..29(17)	32(8)	65(6)	101(8)	90(12)	317(51)
Non-Pulmonary	..8(5)	12(4)	11(3)	29(2)	43(7)	103(21)
Totals	..37(22)	44(12)	76(9)	130(10)	133(19)	420(72)

117 of the 317 notifications of pulmonary tuberculosis during the five years were of children between 5 and 15 years of age

Local agitation. has taken place, especially about 1923, for the provision of a special school for consumptive children, many of whom are deprived of educational opportunities or are a source of danger to other scholars.

The rate of notification of tuberculosis will be seen to have increased greatly during the five years, though the death rate has not.

I believe the increase to be largely due to early diagnosis and greater observance of the duty to notify. The tendency to hide the nature of the disease is less and desire for early diagnosis, and if possible sanatorium treatment, is general.

Still, a high incidence of tuberculosis may be expected when a population has a large immigrant element.

At the end of 1925, 413 cases were on record in the Tuberculosis Register :—Pulmonary 326 (Male 182, Female 144); Non-pulmonary 105 (Male 42, Female 63).

The figures, however, need correction; cases of removal, recovery, and death certified from other causes, which have not come to the notice of the department, will reduce the figures. On the other hand 21 of the 72 deaths recorded in the five years (1921-1925) were of un-notified cases; consequently the figures in the register do not show the total cases in the district.

A quarterly summary of the register has now to be forwarded to the County Medical Officer, but even a quarterly visit to the 413 cases is at present out of the question.

6.—Summary of Nursing Arrangements, Hospitals, and other Institutions for the District.

Professional Nursing in the Home :—

Bolton and Goldthorpe District Nursing Association (Voluntary) 1 Nurse.

Midwives :—

No. practising in the district at end of year	2
No. employed or subsidised by the Public Health Authority	Nil

Clinics and Treatment Centres :—

Name.	Situation.	Nature of Accommodation.	By whom provided.
1. Welfare Centre.	Welfare Hall, Goldthorpe.	Lecture Hall (also used as Waiting Room). Weighing and Consulting Room	Local Authority.

Day Nurseries	Nil
School Clinics (Library, Bolton)	} Controlled by County Authority.
Tuberculosis (Mexborough)	
Veneral Diseases	

Hospitals provided or subsidised by Local Authority :—

1. Tuberculosis	Nil
2. Maternity	Nil
3. Children	Nil
4. Fever	Wath, Swinton & District Joint Hospital Board.

Wath Wood Hospital in Wath-on-
Dearne U.D.

5. Small-pox .. Do. Do.	Hoover Hospital.
6. Other	Nil.

Institutional Provision for Unmarried Mothers, Illegitimate
Infants, and Homeless Children in the District .. Nil

Ambulance Facilities :—

- (a) Infectious Diseases : Motor Ambulance, Wath Wood
Hospital.
Horse Ambulance, Hoover Hospital
- (b) Non-infectious and Accident Cases : Horse Ambulance,
Goldthorpe.

7.—Laboratory Work.

Pathological and bacteriological specimens are submitted to
the County Bacteriologist. Free use has been made of this
facility during the year.

Diphtheria anti-toxin is supplied to Medical Practitioners by
the department on request.

LIST OF ADOPTIVE ACTS, BYE-LAWS, AND REGULATIONS (with date of adoption).

Acts :

Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907 (Parts, 2, 3, 4 and 6 ; and Sect. 92 and 95)	1910
Private Street Works Act, 1892	1901
Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890	1899
Infectious Disease Prevention Act, 1890	1899

Bye-Laws :

New Streets and Buildings	1903
Common Lodging Houses	1903
Prevention of Nuisances	1903
Slaughter-houses	1903
Hackney Carriages	1903
Cleansing of Footways, etc.	1903
Tents, Vans and Sheds	1910
Cleansing of Cesspools	1910

Regulations :

Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops	1906
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8.—Sanitary Administration.

Inspections were made during the year in connection with nuisances at 403 houses, and 730 re-inspections were made.

Informal notices were issued in relation to all these premises, and in 12 cases formal notice was served.

At the end of the year nuisances in connection with 31 premises remained on the books, and 372 had been remedied during the year.

Further details as to general sanitary work are contained in the report of the Sanitary Inspector which is appended.

9.—Public Health Staff.

*†Medical Officer of Health .. J. K. W. Morris, M.B., Ch.B.

*Sanitary Inspector Geo. H. Bates, C.R.San.I.

*Health Visitors Miss L. L. Gopsill, C.M.B.

Miss M. E. Maudsley, C.M.B.

† Part time. * Salary contributed to by grants.

10.—Housing.

During 1925 contracts under the Council's Schemes for 124 houses in Barnbro' Lane and 6 in Hope Avenue were proceeding and 64 houses were newly occupied. Late in the year commencement was made with contracts for 70 houses in Furlong road and Beaumont Street.

Number of Houses erected during year :—

(a) Total	83
(b) As part of a Municipal Housing Scheme	64

1. Unfit Dwelling Houses.—Inspection.

(1) Dwellings inspected under Housing and Public Health Acts	375
(2) Inspections recorded under Housing (Inspection of District)Regs. 1910	
(3) Number of Dwellings found to be unfit for habitation	
(4) Number of other dwellings found not in all respects reasonably fit	

2. Defects remedied without service of formal notice .. 391

3. Action under Statutory Powers :

(1) Section 28, Housing and Town Planning Act, 1919 :

(1) Notices served for Repairs Nil

(2) Number of Dwellings rendered fit :

(a) By Owners Nil

(b) By Local Authority in default Nil

(B) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(1) Number of Dwellings in which notice was served requiring remedy of defects	12
(2) Number of Dwellings in which defects were remedied :	
(a) By Owners	12
(b) By Local Authority in default	Nil

(C) Sections 17 and 18, H. & T.P. Acts, 1919 :

(1) Representations made with a view to making Closing Order	Nil
(2) Closing Orders made	Nil
(3) Closing Orders determined ; houses having been made fit	Nil
(4) Houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders	3

SECTION B.

Water Supply.

The Council is a constituent authority of the Dearne Valley Water Board, which was formed in 1920 and comprises also the urban councils of Wombwell, Hoyland and Darfield, and the parishes of Great and Little Houghton and Billingley. The Board took over the undertaking of the Dearne Valley Water Co.

The Board derives water from deep wells and collieries and the supply is supplemented from the mains of the City of Sheffield and the Urban District of Wath upon Dearne.

The Supply for this district is derived mainly from the Dearne Valley Colliery, a source which came under criticism during the enteric epidemic of 1921 ; since 1923 the supply to the Bolton portion of the district has been derived in part from Wath on Dearne supply.

Up to the end of 1921 the central portion of the Bolton Village was very badly supplied by the public service and many properties relied to a great extent on public and private wells ; the contamination of one of these led to the serious epidemic of enteric fever in the Bolton village in the later part of 1921.

An additional main was laid to Bolton from the incoming main at Highgate after the epidemic. Only one house now depends on a private supply ; the public pumps are closed and very few private pumps remain in operation.

The supply to the Doneaster Road vicinity at Goldthorpe has been a constant source of anxiety during the past five years. In 1924 a reasonable supply was maintained for such a period that the Council felt justified in resuming conversions in this vicinity ; the scheme had, however, to be suspended again at the end of that year. Since that time complete failure of the supply during the day has been the rule, though five-sixths of the district has an abundant supply.

The Board is at present constructing a larger tank on the site of the old tank at Goldthorpe and a 6in. main is being laid from Highgate to the new tank.

A main is being laid to the Board's area to further supplement the supply from the City of Sheffield.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

The developed portions of the district are completely sewered with the exception of the "Island" site in Barnsley Road; only 15 premises—including farms—are unconnected with the system.

Owing to the building development at the east end of Goldthorpe a scheme for sewerage land at the extreme end of the district was prepared and carried out by the Surveyor during 1925; the new sewer was taken under the Dearne Valley Railway in an iron syphon and connected to the existing sewer in Barmbro' Lane.

In view of possible developments in the Highgate portion of the district the Surveyor prepared a scheme whereby a considerable area could be served by sewers discharging into the Highgate Lane sewer.

The main volume of sewage gravitates to syphons which carry it to the works at the south of Bolton and discharge without pumping; sewage from the lower levels gravitates to the works and is pumped.

In 1922 extensions were carried out at the Sewage Works and the main syphon from Goldthorpe was duplicated.

A separate system of sewers discharges a large part of the surface water into the dykes and streams; every opportunity is taken of extending these sewers.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

The Council is the authority for the district under the Notification of Births Act and since 1912 a Health Visitor has been employed on Infant Welfare Work. Up to November, 1924, the duties of School Nurse were also undertaken by the Health Visitor on behalf of the County Council. On account, however, of the growth of the work the County Council withdrew this work but an additional Health Visitor was appointed in December last and school work again undertaken; in addition the Infant Welfare work in adjoining parishes of the Rural District was undertaken by the local nurses.

Since 1924, weekly "Mothers' Welcomes" have been held at the Miner's Welfare Hall, where the accommodation is much more suitable than that formerly used. Attendances have been satisfactory.

Statistics relating to Infantile and Maternal Mortality are given on pages 6 and 7, and further details of the work are given in the report of Miss Gopsill which is appended.

Report of the Sanitary Inspector, 1925.

Council Offices,
Bolton on Dearne.
June 1st, 1926.

To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council,
Gentlemen,

I beg to present herewith a report on the sanitary work in the district during 1925, and in accordance with the Ministry's scheme to add some notes on the work during the five years 1921 to 1925.

I took up my appointment in September, 1921, at the time enteric fever was epidemic in the district and the early months of my service were almost entirely devoted to the epidemic. From the death of the late Surveyor early in 1922, until the appointment of Mr. Adams in July, duties in connection with the Surveyor's department fell to me. From 1923 the general conversion scheme has absorbed a great part of my time. Much time has been devoted to scavenging work and records and costs have been kept, which have enabled adjustments and economies to be made in face of conversions and the erection of many additional houses.

It will be noted from the report that most matters have been dealt with informally and few legal notices served. In cases, however, the remedy of defects has been so long delayed that the value of the department's intervention has been doubtful. To record that progress had been made and all the Council's demands met without recourse to formal action would be excellent, but before this ideal is attained it will be necessary to take prompt formal action in a number of instances.

In connection with the conversion scheme and with the general work endeavour has been made to render all possible assistance in the planning and carrying through of improvements. This attitude involves considerable demands on office and leisure time, but is effective in initiating and speeding up improvement. With the growth of the district and the frequent additions to routine duties, however, it becomes increasingly difficult to devote time to special work without seriously neglecting routine inspections.

I beg to thank the members of the Council for the attention which has been given to all matters and proposals I have brought to their notice, and to acknowledge the assistance I have always been able to depend upon from the officials of the other departments.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours respectfully,

G. H. BATES,
Sanitary Inspector.

HOUSING.

ACTION UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

Inspections and re-inspections were made in connection with nuisances and defects at 403 houses—375 recorded in 1925 and 28 brought forward from 1924.

Defects at 372 houses were remedied during the year and 31 remained in hand at the year end.

The following summary shows the nuisances abated and defects remedied in and around dwellings :—

House Repairs :

Houses rendered dry : Walls and floors	..	..	..	2
Walls re-plastered	..	..	..	10
Floors repaired	..	..	..	6
Skylights and roofs repaired	..	..	..	7
Ranges repaired or reset	..	..	..	7
Set-pot renewed or reset	..	..	..	1
Ovens renewed	..	..	..	1
Eaves, troughs repaired or renewed	..	..	..	7
Fall-pipes repaired	..	..	..	2
Yards repaired	..	..	..	6
Water Service Improved	..	..	..	2
Flues repaired	..	..	..	2
Window cords renewed	..	..	..	3
Doors repaired	..	..	..	2

Drains.:

Drains opened and cleansed	..	..	..	37
„ repaired	..	..	..	14
„ reconstructed	..	..	..	21
„ connected to sewers	..	..	..	2
Waste-pipes repaired	..	..	..	14
Rain-water pipes disconnected	..	..	..	1

Closets :

Water-closets opened and cleansed	..	..	..	15
„ repaired	..	..	..	17
„ seats renewed	..	..	..	6
„ pedestals renewed	..	..	..	7
„ cisterns renewed	..	..	..	2
„ „ repaired or regulated	..	..	..	37

Ash-Pits :

Ash-bins renewed	..	..	..	129
Additional bins provided	..	..	..	2

Accumulations, etc. :

Offensive accumulations removed	..	..	..	1
„ ditch to cleanse	..	..	..	1
Dilapidated temporary building removed	..	..	..	1

Keeping of Animals :

Poultry removed from yards	9
Poultry properly penned	1
Pigstyes cleansed, dung and swill tub removed	3
„ repaired	1
„ removed	5

The above matters were dealt with in the first place informally by letter or interview ; in respect of 12 properties formal notice was subsequently served.

Ownership of houses, etc.

At the end of 1925 the number of houses occupied in the Council's schemes totalled 789, slightly over 25 per cent. of the total houses in the district.

Two colliery companies own some 520 houses, mainly of modern type.

With the exception of 30 old houses in the Bolton Village, all the houses in the district are " Through " and have back space in excess of by-law requirements.

The paving of private streets and back roads is fairly complete.

Drainage and Yard Paving.

Much remains to be done in respect of house drainage and yard paving before a satisfactory standard of external sanitation is reached. Much of the drainage of the pre-war dwellings is badly planned and executed, and generally the drains of the older dwellings need reconstruction.

Revision of building bye-laws, which the Council has not yet undertaken, and adoption of the sanitary provisions of the 1925 Public Health Act would enable this work to be dealt with more effectively.

The number of yards repaved during the past five years is small. The majority of the yards of the older houses are common to two or more houses. The adoption of Sec. 25 of the Amendment Act of 1907 repealed the local byelaw as to yard paving, but the section is so worded that its application to common yards appeared doubtful. Hence only informal action has been taken in this matter. The Act of 1925 rectifies this difficulty and when adopted the proper paving of yards may be pressed.

Clearance of Choked Drains, etc.

In June, 1925, a number of owners and agents were approached as to the giving of general instruction to the department to deal with blockages to drains and W.C.'s as they came to notice. Thirteen owners fell in with the proposal and up to the present 45 blockages have been dealt with under this arrangement at small cost to the owners.

House Management.

The bulk of the properties in the district are in the hands of agents, whose concern appears mainly to be confined to the collection of rents.

With the exception, perhaps, of certain colliery properties, no attempt is made at modern management, supervision of tenants, or economical maintenance of dwellings in sound repair.

Voluntary repairs are, however, more freely undertaken by owners than in previous years, but thorough renovation of dwellings is rare. Owners frequently complain of the difficulty of securing repairs owing to the small number of persons engaged in this work.

Disinfection.

Thirty-five verminous houses were dealt with during 1925 by the Council's Staff. Most of the houses were infested by bugs and were treated with paraffin emulsion by means of a pneumatic spray adapted to give a single fine jet. This treatment is usually successful, though occasionally spraying has had to be repeated, and in one or two instances sulphur fumigation has followed spraying.

When adopted, the Public Health Act 1925, will give the Council new powers in respect of verminous premises.

In July, 1925, the Council adopted a fixed charge of 2/6 for this treatment, the charge being made on the owner or occupier according to the circumstances of the case.

Sixteen of the houses dealt with were Council houses and others had been vacated by tenants moving in to Council houses.

Overcrowding.

Cases of 'Legal' overcrowding are occasionally brought to notice, the cause being invariably sub-letting or the taking of lodgers. Where lodgers, or a stranger family are taken into a house where adequate accommodation is not available action should be taken against the tenant.

ACTION UNDER THE HOUSING ACTS.

Unfit Houses.

An appeal against closing orders made in 1924 for six houses in Bolton was withdrawn during the year, but two of the houses were still occupied at year end. A plan has since been approved by the Council for demolition of one house, reconstruction of two as one and utilization of the others as business premises.

Four dwellings were inspected and the two owners approached as to the demolition of one house and the reconstruction of the other three.

Prior to the carrying out of conversions at three old properties the owners were requested not to relet three of the houses ; jointly used W.C.'s were permitted for the time being.

During the five years (1921-1925) 24 houses were represented as unfit and closing orders made. Fourteen of these houses have been demolished, three have been re-occupied after repair and reconstruction of sanitary conveniences, and one has been completely reconstructed. The remaining six houses are those mentioned at the head of this section. Four houses closed in 1920 were also demolished during the five years.

Houses not in all respects Fit.

In 1921, forty houses were inspected under the regulations and recorded as not in all respects fit ; 18 of these houses were again inspected and recorded in 1922. In both cases repair notices were served but no satisfactory result was achieved. Subsequent action has been entirely under the Public Health Acts and no further inspections have been recorded.

The condition of some dwellings and the attitude of the owners appears to render action under the Housing Acts advisable in certain cases. The method, however, is cumbersome and its general adoption would demand increase of staff or involve neglect of other matters.

Tents, Vans and Sheds.

At the end of the year, 10 caravans were permanently pitched in the district, as against 6 a year previously. All contravene the Council's byelaws in some respects. The increase of this type of dwelling in this district, where so much has been done to provide sufficient houses, is to be discouraged.

Sanitary Accommodation.

The following table shows the numbers and proportion of premises with the various types of sanitary convenience at the end of 1925 :—

Type of Convenience.		Bolton.	High-gate	Gold thorpe	Total.	Percentages	
						1925	1924
Water Closet .. ..	..	892	186	1754	2821	91.0	88.4
Waste Water Closet ..	..	11	6	61	78	2.5	2.8
Midden Privy .. ..	..	47	1	154	202	6.5	9.0
Totals .. ..	..	950	193	1969	3101		
Ashbins .. ..	..	903	192	1711	2806	90.5	87.8
Ash-pits .. ..	..			93	93	3.0	3.2
Privy-pits .. ..	..	47	1	154	202	6.5	9.0

The changes in the Sanitary accommodation of the district during the past five years are as follows :—

	End of 1920.	End of 1925.
No. of premises with—		
Water Closets	1,291 (54.9%)	2,821 (91.0%)
Waste Water Closets ..	84 (3.4%)	78 (2.5%)
Total on Water-carriage system	1,375 (58.3%)	2,899 (93.5%)
Midden privies	979 (41.7%)	202 (6.5%)
Ashbins	1,205 (51.1%)	2,806 (90.5%)
Ashpits	170 (7.2%)	93 (3.0%)
Privy-pits	979 (41.7%)	202 (6.5%)

Only 1.08% of the houses have jointly used closets.

Waste Water Closets.

Many of the 78 waste-water closets are of the deep-shaft type and are in disrepair. These fittings contravene every principle laid down for sanitary appliances and their early conversion into fresh-water closets should be secured.

CONVERSION SCHEME.

During the year 1925, only 63 privies were converted under the scheme and 3 abolished. The work was almost entirely in abeyance on account of inadequacy of the service of water to parts of the district.

This work was commenced in 1920 by a direct labour scheme under the P.H. (Amendment) Act, 1907. 179 privies were converted up to July, 1921, when the scheme was suspended owing to water difficulties. The works comprised only the installing of W.C. fittings in the closet chambers, and preparing the pits as ash-bin shelters ; the cost of this work averaged £14 16s. 2d. per closet, the additional cost of supplying ash-bins being borne by the owner. The proportion of the cost borne by the Council averaged £7 7s. 6d. per closet.

Sec. 39 (4) of the Act was draughted without realization of the practical aspect of the sanitary improvement projected. Local Authorities following the letter of the Section incur needlessly heavy cost and find obviously desirable improvements to the amenity of dwellings barred, even though the owner desires to see improvement effected.

In 1923, when it was decided to resume conversion of privies, I put forward a scheme by which the work would be carried out by the owners and the Council's contribution limited to maximum of £5 per closet. This scheme and a General Specification, involving an increase in cost of about 31/- per closet, were adopted by the Council.

Under the scheme 614 privies in 105 ownerships were converted during 1923, 1924 and 1925 at a cost to the Council of £4 19s. 8d. per closet. The total cost of the works executed was £8,418, averaging £13 14s. 2d. per closet. Plans were prepared in the Department for the work at 64 of the properties and estimates were obtained on behalf of the owners in many cases.

The scheme has enabled advantage to be taken of the occasion of conversion to effect improvements in the privacy and convenience of the closets; pits unsuitable for utilisation as bin shelters have been abolished, or otherwise utilized; other improvements have been carried out along with the conversion work.

The character of the improvements is indicated below :—

Closets rebuilt on new sites	238
„ reconstructed on same site	5
„ enlarged by division of pits	70
Closet positions transposed with coal places	14
Pits converted to cycle houses, etc.	23
House drains reconstructed in course of conversion work	164
Houses provided with 3 to 4 yards of paving in rear	87

The scheme has worked smoothly and produced the results desired.

Though a very considerable public saving has accrued, I regard the contributions as fully meeting the proper liabilities of the Council.

£5,250 has been borrowed for the purposes of the scheme and £3,059 was expended up to the end of 1925.

As an offset to this expenditure, the Council is entitled to expect a saving in the cost of refuse collection.

That a proper saving has been affected may be indicated thus :

Analysis of Costs for 1923 showed that a house with a privy cost almost 50% more to scavenge than did a house with an ash-bin. Then for each pair of privy houses converted to the bin system, an additional bin-house should be scavenged without increase of cost.

During the five years 1921 to 1925, 720 privies were converted and thus 360 new houses should have been scavenged without increase of cost. Actually 785 additional houses were added without increase of staff and at a reduced cost.

FOOD SUPPLY.

Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924.

These regulations came into operation in April, 1925. All the local butchers submitted statements of regular slaughtering hours ; 58 " Casual " notices of slaughter were also received from butchers during the year.

Ninety-eight notices were received from pig-keepers relating to the slaughter of 108 pigs.

Notification of diseased conditions was not more frequent than before the operation of the regulations, but the provision requiring notification is a valuable one.

Little action was demanded in this district in respect of meat shops. One newly opened butcher's shop having inadequate ventilation was dealt with and was afterwards put to other use.

Much foreign and home-killed meat is sold by hawkers, mainly from outside the district. The hawkers' vehicles comply with the regulations.

The two or three meat stalls used on Saturdays have not been brought into compliance with the requirements of the regulations.

Unsound Food.

The following food-stuffs were surrendered for destruction during the year :—Two forequarters of beef, 3 offals and 1 liver, affected by tuberculosis ; 3 livers affected by cysts and one case of unsound herrings.

Insurance Scheme.

I have expressed regret in previous reports that the local butchers' Insurance Scheme, which lapsed during the war-period, had not been revived. Though some movement was made during the year towards re-establishing a scheme, this has not yet come about.

Slaughterhouses.

There are 10 annually licensed slaughterhouses in the district, the number being the same as twenty years ago when the population was only 40 per cent. of that of to-day.

One licence to erect a slaughter-house was granted during the year, but the erection has not yet been proceeded with.

The ten slaughter-houses are used by 13 retail butchers and are all of small type. Generally the buildings are fairly good. All are in rather close proximity to dwellings, but little nuisance arises. Four are in yards used in common by tenants of other premises—an undesirable feature.

Sale of Food and Drugs Acts.

Eight samples of milk were purchased during the year under the scheme whereby the County Council pays the cost of analysis and conducts any legal proceedings. All the samples were reported as "Genuine."

Dairies and Cowsheds.

During the year two small unfit cowsheds were closed and demolished; minor alterations were made in three sheds; two sheds were limewashed after request from the department.

The following matters were taken up with owners and sketch plans prepared; I anticipate that the works indicated will be carried out during the present year:—

- No. 1—Erection of an additional 10-stall cowshed and a Dairy;
- No. 2—Adaptation of old farm brew-house as "Dairy";
- No. 3—Erection of a Dairy and conversion of old buildings into a 12-stall cowshed to replace defective sheds;
- No. 4—Erection of a Dairy and reconstruction of 3-stall shed and styres as a six-stall shed.

Since 1922 the following improvements have been effected:—

Unfit cowsheds discontinued	6
Large shed containing four stalls reconstructed as 10-stall shed	1
Four-stall shed constructed out of existing cart-shed to replace unsuitable shed	1
Disused 6-stall shed refitted	1
Middensteads erected	3
Light and Ventilation increased	5

Considerable further improvement is needed before the accommodation for milk beasts can be considered satisfactory and the provision of suitable dairy accommodation at the farms should be pressed. Attention, however, should also be turned to the methods of the milk producers, which are not in all cases conducive to the production of a clean milk supply.

The accommodation and milk beasts kept were:—

			Premises.	Sheds.	Stalls.	Cons.
1921	..	..	17	27	117	91
1925	..	..	14	22	105	90

Milk Registration.

There were on the registers and actually engaged in the business at the end of 1925 :—

Retail purveyors ; within the district—not cowkeepers ..	4
,, also cowkeepers ..	13
	—
	17
,, outside the district	10
	—
Total retailers	27
Wholesale purveyors	2

Most of the local farms, originally being arable farms, are without dairy accommodation suitable for milk-producing farms. As noted under “ Dairies and Cowsheds ” this matter is being taken up with the owners.

In November, 1924, the Council laid down simple conditions as to dairy accommodation to be provided by applicants for registration as milk retailers. At that time the milk roundsmen conducted their businesses from small dwellings without any special convenience for the handling of milk and milk vessels.

By the end of 1925, compliance had been made with the Council's requirements except in two cases, *viz.* : (a) A registered retailer occupying unsuitable premises for storage and cleansing of milk vessels ; (b) An applicant for registration still conducting the business in a dwelling house.

One application for registration was refused and the registration of five retailers was cancelled ; four of these latter had transferred their businesses.

Food Shops, Stores, etc.

The Public Health Act, 1925, contains provisions giving better control over premises used for the preparation, storage or sale of food. Use as sleeping places is prohibited, lime-washing and maintenance of cleanliness are required ; communication with W.C.'s., etc., is prohibited and all reasonable steps to prevent contamination of food are required.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Reference to Other Departments.

1. Choked Sewers, Street Gullies, etc.	14
2. Erections in yards	5
3. Wastage of Water	14
4. Housing Schemes—Defective Bins	40
Various Defects	22

The number of loads of refuse collected during the past five years was :—

1921—6,220 ; 1922—6,356 ; 1923—6,544 ; 1924—6,120 ; 1925—5,366.

It will be seen that in spite of the growth of the district the number of loads of refuse has decreased considerably since 1923. This is attributable to three causes, namely :—

(1) **Conversions.**—From the resumption in 1923 of the scheme for conversion of privies to the end of 1925, 617 privies were converted into W.C.'s and ash-bins installed. Larger loads of the lighter dry refuse are carried.

(2) **Size of Carts.**—In 1922 the old carts were brought to a uniform capacity of 54 c. ft. In October, 1923, two carts with a capacity of 62 c. ft. were purchased and a little used cart of large capacity was reduced to 62 c. ft. and put in regular use. Towards the end of 1925, these three carts were fitted with shallow hinged side-boards and the average capacity brought to 70 c. ft. (The average load of dry refuse carried may now be taken as one ton).

(3) **Reduction of Refuse.**—In October, 1924, a leaflet on proper disposal of refuse was distributed throughout the district. This resulted in the summer load of 1924 being maintained throughout the winter of 1924-25. The summer load of 1925 showed the usual reduction on that of the preceding winter.

The issue of the leaflet was repeated in October, 1925, and local hardware dealers were asked to display appliances they stocked designed for recovery of cinders, culenders or strainers for use on the slopstone, etc. The advantage gained in 1923 was maintained during the past winter. Comparing 1923 and 1925, the quantity of refuse from houses with bins shows a reduction of 8 per cent.

The census of 1921, showed that 63.5 per cent, of the employed males in the district were engaged in coal mines, consequently the quantity of refuse produced is large in comparison with non-mining, or less exclusively mining areas. In 1925 houses with bins produced on the average approximately 32 cwts. of refuse ; a quantity about 50 per cent. in excess of the average for the country.

Whilst the " Home Coal " system continues, the gross yield of refuse will remain heavy. Against this, however, is to be put the fact that the open kitchen range is found in every house and is, in almost every case, in daily use throughout the year. Thus, facilities for the burning at home of all combustible refuse are exceptional.

Some of the home coal is unsuitable for domestic use ; some contains quantities of stone and excessive quantities of slack, which are placed direct in the ash-bin.

Trade Refuse.

In 1921 refuse from six shops was collected weekly at a charge of 4d. per tub.

In 1923, advantage was taken of the twice-weekly collection of bin refuse to offer a twice weekly collection from shops at a weekly charge of 3d., or 2d. in the case of a house-shop.

Sixteen shop-keepers, etc., took advantage of the arrangement in 1923, and the number increased to 25 in 1924 and 35 in 1925.

The trade refuse is tipped along with the domestic refuse.

Cesspools.

Two cesspools in connection with six houses and three shops at Goldthorpe are cleansed by agreement with the Council at the owners' cost. This work is carried out by night. The sewerage of the site of these premises has been under consideration for some years. It is desirable that a sewerage scheme should be carried through, so that this type of night work has not to be continued after completion of the conversion of privies.

(b) Refuse Disposal.

The whole of the refuse is disposed of by tipping, the tip for Goldthorpe, Highgate and the northerly part of Bolton being "The Marsh," situated a quarter of mile south of Barnborough Lane ; for the remainder of Bolton the tip is at the Sewage Works.

The following statement shows the number of loads of refuse tipped during 1925 ; comparative figures for 1924 being added :—

Place.	Dry Refuse.	Wet Refuse.	Total 1925	Total 1924
Marsh Tip ..	3,738	403	4,141	4,688
Sewage Works	869	155	1,024	1,404
Allotment Rds.	140	—	140	28
Farm Roads ..	61	—	61	—
Totals	4,808	558	5,366	6,120

The tip at " The Marsh " has been in use for 18 years. The Medical Inspector of the Ministry of Health reporting in 1922 on the epidemic of enteric fever, stated " The refuse has been spread broadcast and no attempt has been made to cover it with soil." The Council, after receipt of this report, approved the employment of a labourer to work on the tips. The refuse has since been tipped in blocks and at less depth than previously, and has been levelled and the slopes covered with screenings or earth. Soil has been led on to the surface.

Public Conveniences.

At the end of 1925 the only public conveniences in the district were urinals at the Goldthorpe Recreation Ground and adjoining the Co-operative Street Club; the former provided and the latter maintained by the Council.

During recent years six urinals have been abolished.

At the time of writing the erection of two urinals in Bolton and conveniences in the Cemetery is proceeding. The erection of further conveniences is included in the programme of the Sub-Committee which dealt with the matter.

These further conveniences are badly needed.

Offensive Trades.

No premises are registered for offensive trades, though one tripe-boiling business has existed in the district for some years.

The Council resolved so long ago as 1918 to declare fish-frying an offensive trade, so that bye-laws might be obtained.

The matter has frequently been discussed during the past five years but no steps have been taken, though the matter is one which should be pressed in the interests of the public and the trade.

Factories and Workshops.

There are four workshops and six bakehouses on the registers. No action has been necessary during the year.

Keeping of Animals.

During the past five years 33 instances of poultry, and 7 of pigs, being improperly kept in close proximity to dwellings were dealt with and discontinued.

Some instances remain of poultry keeping in unsuitable positions and in dilapidated or neglected pens.

The Council in 1923, considered the erection and renting of permanent pig-styes on the allotments, but the proposal fell through. The conditions under which animals are kept on allotments are far from satisfactory, and I should like to see the proposal revived.

SCAVENGING.

(a) Collection.

Collection of house refuse is carried out by the Council's men by means of horses and carts; the collection staff had since the latter part of 1920 consisted of four carters and four fillers (including a Foreman), but during the second half of 1925 only 3 horses and carts were regularly employed, and one horse and cart was hired part time.

The total number of premises in the district increased from 2,350 at the end of 1920 to 3,101 at the end of 1925—an increase of 32 per cent.

The additional premises are dwellings on openly developed sites and consequently with longer " Carry " than old properties. The handling of bins from these dwellings has been simplified by devising a truck for lifting and carrying the bins to the kerb for loading into the carts.

The weekly collection from ash-bins throughout the district was supplemented in 1920 by a **twice weekly collection** from some 500 houses in districts where small bins were numerous and home coal was of inferior kind. The twice weekly collection has been extended until, in 1925, the whole of the pre-war properties in Goldthorpe and Highgate, numbering almost 1,400, were normally brought in.

The bins in use are mainly 18in. x 24ins. round bins. During the past four years owners have been requested when making renewals to install this size of bin and to order bins of 22-gauge, or of weight not less than 24lbs. Since the middle of 1924, the Department has stocked suitable bins and owners have been informed (when renewals were requested), that bins might be obtained through the Department on prepayment of the cost. 127 bins have been supplied under this arrangement.

Privies and Ash-pits are cleansed monthly. Privies are dealt with by night ; during 1925 the average interval between cleansings was 27.5 days.

The average haul to the tips slightly exceeds $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile ; during recent years the haul has been appreciably increased by concentration of refuse at the two recognised tips.

Wages of the collection staff have been maintained in face of the conversion of privies and reduction of night work, by the compounding of night pay since 1923.

Quantity of Refuse.

The following statement shows the numbers of loads, and the proportion of the total refuse collected from the three types of refuse receptacle (comparative figures for 1924 are added) :—

Type of Receptacle.	No. of Loads Collected.		Percentages.	
	1925	1924	1925	1924
Midden Privy ..	558	1249	10.4%	20.4%
Ash-pit	234	291	4.4%	4.9%
Ash-bin	4574	4580	85.2%	74.7%
Totals ..	5366	*6120	*53 weeks.	

The levelling and covering of the old portions of the tip have gradually been carried out and this work is now almost completed.

Prior to 1922 complaints were numerous from the Barnbro' Lane District, but, since orderly tipping and covering were introduced, these complaints have ceased.

At the Sewage Works, low-lying beds adjoining the river have been filled with refuse and a 9inch covering of soil dug out and spread on the new surface. Here refuse is only tipped three feet deep and consequently the cost of covering is high in relation to the quantity of refuse tipped. Before general covering of refuse on tips was commenced, the cost of levelling and covering at the Sewage Works was met by the payment of one day's pay of a labourer at the Works by the Seavenging Department. Now the whole cost is met by the Department.

The land now available for tipping at the sewage works is very limited and will be fully used within two years.

In order to limit the amount of refuse taken to the Sewage Works, a roadway was constructed in 1923, from Goldthorpe Green to "The Marsh" tip, thus bringing the portion of Bolton north of the Cemetery within range of the Tip.

During the past two or three years, the cartway from Barnbro' Lane to the "Marsh Tip" has been pitched and spread with old road metal by the Department's men.

Improved Means of Disposal.

During the past five years there has been occasional discussion of discontinuance of tipping and the erection of a screening or other disposal plant, but no steps have been taken.

The carrying out of the intention to utilize the refuse of the authorities jointly concerned in the new local Light Railways for the purpose of producing electric current was vetoed by the Electricity Commissioners.

Experimental screening of local refuse showed a high yield of fuel, but no use exists for steam raised by a Destructor, or for recovered cinder, except the possible use of cinder at the brick-works owned by the Council.

Should proposals for further building schemes south of the present Barnbro' Lane Scheme be pursued, closing of the present dump of refuse will be advisable; tipping will have to take place further from the Housing Site or other means of disposal be adopted.

Depot.

The projected street widening at the Angel Street and Station Road corner and the replanning of the site of the present Farm-Depot make it advisable to consider the removal of the Seavenging Depot to the vicinity of Goldthorpe Green—a suitable situation for economy in collection and for future disposal plant, if adopted.

(c) **Scavenging Costs.**

TABLE 1—SCAVENGING COSTS, 1925.

	Collection.	Disposal.	Total.
1. Net Total Cost	£1432 14 10½	£240 10 5	£1673 6 3½
2. Cost per 1,000 population (Reg. Gen. Estimate) ..	£99 14 1	£16 14 9	£116 8 10
3. Cost per 1,000 houses	£468 4 0	£78 10 0	£546 14 0
4. Rate in £ ..	6.26d.	1.05d.	7.31d.
5. Propn. of G. Dist. Rate	7.5%	1.2%	8.7%

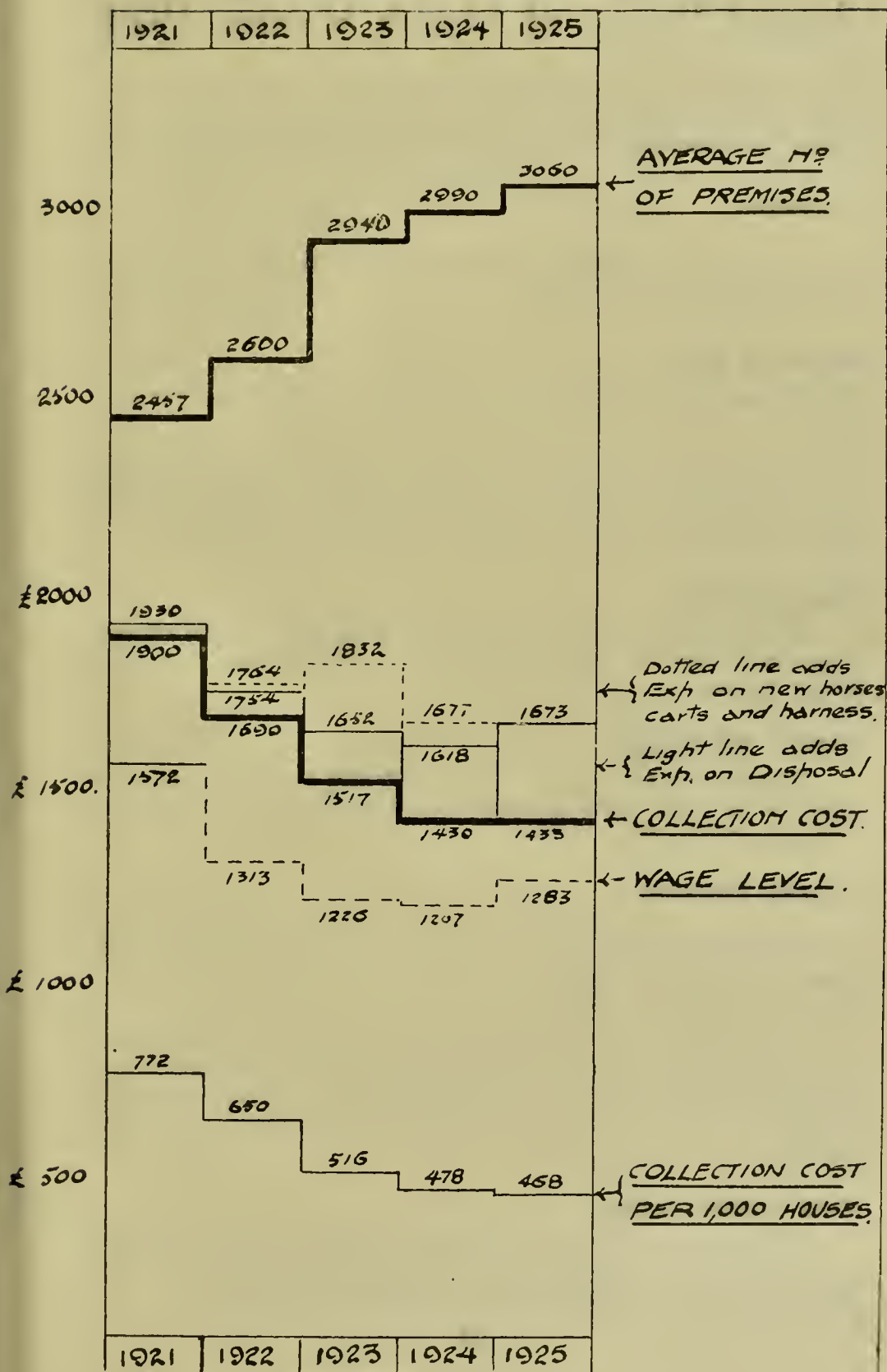
TABLE 2—COMPARATIVE COSTS. 1921—1925.

Year	Collection.				Disposal	Collectn & Disposal.	
	Total Cost	Per 1000 houses.	Per 1000 pop'l'n	Rate in £	Total Cost.	Rate in £	Proportion of G.D Rate
1925	£1433	£468	£99	6.26d.	£240	7.3d.	8.7%
1924	£1485	£496	£105	6.73d.	£193	7.6d.	9.7%
1923	£1693	£575	£128	8.02d.	£139	8.6d.	10.7%
1922	£1699	£653	£133	11.5d.	£65	11.9d.	10.5%
1921	£1900	£839	£158	1/1.7d.	£30	1/1.9d.	12.5%
Cost of Horses, Carts and Harness included :					1925 ..	Nil.	
					1924 ..	£60 0 0	
					1923 ..	£185 10 0	
					1922 ..	£10 10 0	
					1921 ..	Nil.	

Comparative costs for the five years are shown graphically on page 33.

Returns in 1922 showed the cost of collection from Privies to be 16/7, and from bins and ash-pits 11/3 per house per annum ; on this basis the work in 1925 would have cost £1784. The actual cost in 1925 was £1433—showing a saving of £351 per annum (or almost 20 per cent.), though the wage level fell only 2.3%. This saving is, of course, additional to the saving due to conversion of privies.

SCAVENGING COSTS—1921 to 1925.



Annual Report of Health Visitor, 1924.

To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in presenting my sixth annual report of my work in your district.

Ante-natal Work.

During the year 54 cases were visited, the same number as in 1924.

Again I would like to emphasise the importance of this branch of Maternity and Child Welfare Work. Many deaths of infants under one month of age are due to ante-natal troubles and could be prevented if advice was sought in time by the mothers.

Breast Feeding.

Nearly all our babies are breast fed up to 3 months of age ; nine out of ten are breast fed up to 9 months and some for longer periods.

Births ; Still-births.

Eighteen still-births were notified during the year, compared with 13 in 1924. The number of live-births notified was 430, compared with 439 in 1924.

Infantile Mortality.

The infant death rate was about the same as last year—103.5 per 1,000 against 130.0. The rate for the last five years, however, showed an improvement on the previous five years—99.4 compared with 105.4.

During the early part of the year, Bronchitis, Pneumonia and Whooping Cough were very prevalent amongst the babies and toddlers, and accounted for 20 deaths under one year ; Premature birth again accounted for a considerable proportion of the infant deaths.

Child Welfare Centres.

Attendances at the Child Welfare Centre have been good during the year. Since removing the centre to the Miners' Welfare Hall we find the accommodation much more satisfactory.

School Work.

In December, 1925, School Nursing and School Clinic work were again taken over by the U.D.C. This was made possible by the appointment of Nurse Maudsley, who took up duties on December 1st. Since her appointment, Child Welfare work in certain of the Parishes of the Rural District has also been undertaken by arrangement with the Council.

Summary of Visits.

Infants— First Visits	..	..	..	..	..	..	456
„ Re-visits	..	..	..	..	..	..	1824
Children—1-5 years	..	..	..	..	..	..	1334
Ante-natal	..	..	..	..	..	..	54
Special visits	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
School children—home visits	..	..	..	..	..	..	26
Total visits	..	..	..	..	..	..	<hr/>3696 <hr/>

Two hundred and eight children were examined at school and 59 attended to at the School Clinic.

I wish to take this opportunity of thanking the Ladies who have helped at the Centre during the year, and also the Members of the Council and Officials for their help and sympathy.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

LYDIA L. GOPSILL.

